

[DOI: 10.20472/AHC.2016.001.010](https://doi.org/10.20472/AHC.2016.001.010)

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## **THE REFLEXION OF YOUNG PEOPLE'S UNEMPLOYMENT BY INTERNET PARTICIPATION**

### **Abstract:**

Thesis of "The reflexion of young people's unemployment by internet participation" contents theoretical and empirical part. In the theoretical part of this thesis, we focus on definitions of the participation and we also define its basic forms in contemporary society with higher importance of the Internet and the way of Internet communication. The empirical part of this thesis focuses on the surveyed university students' participation in the internet discussions which are focussed on unemployment's issues and also prices growth. There were 180 university students of Constantine Philosopher university in Nitra and on the Slovak agricultural university in Nitra who attended the research. This research was realised in March 2015 and received data were processed with statistic software SPSS 20 by univariate and bivariate data analysis.

### **Keywords:**

comunication, internet, internet discussion, participation, university students

## Introduction

Wide range examination of sociable phenomenon and processes is in many cases focused on understanding them by individuals, who participate on elementary social interactions of basic sociable institutions. Individuals are indispensable prerequisite for sociable order's existence, and also for its progress, which is connected with its optimal operation. If man generally reflects phenomenon and processes, which are directly or indirectly connected with him, we should explore individual's attitudes, opinions and thoughts associated with his daily life in the society.

Daily life living is not characterised only by the optimal processes and operations. We can also meet with individuals' dissatisfaction associated with some areas during life of the people. For this reason, we should characterise situations and problems described as problems of individuals in the society. In this way, individuals want to define these problems and they also want to solve problems in the society. However, the most serious sociable problems' solution is not only a question of one person's involvement. Efficient and effective solutions require the cooperation of several individuals, as well as whole groups of population.

There are many groups in the contemporary society. For this reason, we should focus only on one of them - young people. We also consider university students as young people. We should emphasize that university students' life is connected with their expectations of the future. University students should sense the importance of their study section because university study prepares upper described group of citizens for independent and fulfilling life. Independent life means major economic independence, which ensure sufficient of financial resources for people, especially for university students. According to this, we should concentrate on way and possibilities of unemployment reflection by university students. In these contents, we consider the importance of internet communication's spreading especially among young people. For this reason, we should explore the university student's interest of unemployment' issue and also prices growth.

## Participation in contemporary society

Contemporary civil society provides a platform for organisations, associations and also for organised individuals who express their thoughts and their existence is allowed by ordinary law (Howard, 2003, p. 34). We should state, that specific individuals' grouping is justified by the law of civil society. Man's life is related with many variety processes in the contemporary society. Individual can participate on these processes. We can define participation as a summary of activities, where individuals use their right of participation of public process. By participation individuals can show their interest in public processes and it is also the way how they become part of the sociable institution. Moreover, we can add, that participation is "the general structural sign of democratic society." (Kaplánek – Kočerová, 2011, p. 19) According to this, it is possible to participate on elementary sociable phenomenon and processes in the

democratic society, only. Individual has a possibility of his opinion's expression by the comment of basic sociable institutions' operation.

We can express association of the individuals by their civil participation in the society. "We can define civil participation as an individuals' active participation of the sociable problems' solution and it is also characterised by their participation in public affairs – it happens within the local community, the particular social organisation, ethnic, national or global community." (Bútorová, 2010, p. 449) Regarding to this, individuals are interested in

According to Macháček, civil participation includes "diverse forms of young people's engagement in communal affairs such as civil association, civil movements and initiatives, short term projects and various campaigns (Macháček, 2009, p. 13). Civil participation generally concludes in young peoples' pooling, who create various initiatives and also movements or initiatives aimed on expressing dissatisfaction in various areas.

The specific forms of participation are also influenced by age and education. The age group of 20-30 years is generally interested in activities such as participation in internet discussion, participation of demonstrations and participation of nongovernmental organisation. Accumulative education increases the measurement of past participation and it also increases its future potential (Bútorová, 2010, p. 468). According to this, young people become very important group of population who participate in solution of societal problems in the contemporary society. They express their disagreement of actual societal events with different ways. They are often involved in internet discussion and they are also sharing their opinions and their attitudes with others. Subsequently, social networks spread important information about planned activities, which are aimed at achievement of individuals' requirements in the society.

We must emphasize, that the most of existing societal institutions enable individuals' engagement of action which are directed to make expression of their opinion about actual societal events. According to Bútorová, we are talking about four types of civil participation (Bútorová, 2010, p. 455):

- 1) Individual political initiative
- 2) The participation of mass civil activities
- 3) Protest activities – include participation on demonstration or protest. Moreover, groups of people participate on these activities. Individuals can express their disagreement with societal condition.
- 4) Problems' solution by public discussion – it concludes online discussion regarding to public affairs as well as individual's opinions about discussed situation. Individual express his opinion by online communication on social networks and he can also promise his support of planned activities and operations.

We conclude that upper described way of participation is eloquent. It concludes individual and also group participation's ways in the society. We should concentrate to the public and online discussion as a one of individual's ways of their problem situations' solutions. In the following part of this thesis we focus on increasing importance of online communication's spreading in the contemporary society.

## **Communication by internet network**

We must accentuate that contemporary society is typical by "globalisation, information technology, new knowledge economy and sustainable development." (Blažej, 2005, p. 23) Regarding to this, we mainly point out globalisation's importance, as well as increasing of information technology's importance in past years.

According to Kapr, we are talking about societal progress in forming of global communication, which uses mainly technological innovations and it is based on science progress. Previously described author talks about radical change in the society with creation of communication network and also with creation of new patterns of activities in various life areas. The change will be also important and Kapr also pointed out to the creation of global information system in the future. This system will enable prompt interpersonal interaction not only among two individuals (Kapr, 1991, p. 28). In the communication could participate individuals, social groups or also social institutions. We state, that Kapr's ideas of establishing communication without personal contact were fulfilled.

"Internet and internet communication are not traditional media. They are means of interactive communication. Border between media communication and other communication forms are erased." (Castells, 1996, p. 75) Internet provides lots of activities such as searching for and finding information, entertainment, communication with friends and also communication with individuals with similar or identical attitudes and opinions.

We must not forget on the internet expansion in contemporary society. Its acquisition mainly includes "engagement of variety people in public discussion" (Jiráček, 2009, p. 69). At this point we agree with upper described statements because lots of people participate in discussions on various issues by the internet communication. Moreover, physical presence is not requisite in the centre of virtual events. Finally, it is the way of gaining information for young people and they can also react on events which are directly or indirectly connected with them.

In addition, we note the importance of social networks in contemporary society. It is the way of individuals' association with approximately identic attitudes and opinions (Janouch, 2010, p. 135). Expansion of the social networks allowed homogenous population groups' online connection between young people mainly. The internet and also social networks enable connection with registered users of social networks (Boyd-Ellison, 2007). At this point, we accentuate the importance of social networks by

approximately identical attitudes' and opinions' connection associated with wide range issues.

## Empirical research

Empirical investigation of upper analysed thesis was oriented on 180 university students. Respondents studied humanistic and technical field of study on Constantine Philosopher University in Nitra and on the Slovak agricultural university in Nitra. This research was realised in March 2015 and it was based on the actual problems in the Slovak society such as problematic employment of young people after graduation from university.

We used quantitative methodology of investigation by pre-prepared questionnaire. Analysis of received data was based on statistical software SPSS's 20 using univariate and bivariate data analysis.

We consider young peoples' unemployment as a one of the most serious problems in the contemporary society. Regarding to this, upper described problem should be solved by competent and responsible persons. We elucidate respondents' perception of indicated issue characterised by their views about government's solutions of young peoples' unemployment.

**Table 1 Respondents' satisfaction with Slovak government's involvement in solving of unemployment**

| <i>Respondents' satisfaction with Slovak government's involvement in solving of unemployment</i> | <i>Count</i> | <i>%</i>    |
|--|--------------|-------------|
| <b>Without answer</b>  | 2            | 1,1         |
| <b>Yes</b>   | 51           | 28,3        |
| <b>No</b>  | <b>92</b>    | <b>51,1</b> |
| <b>I do not know</b>   | 35           | 19,4        |
| <b>Total</b>   | 180          | 100,0       |

*Source: processed by author*

Surveyed university students are interested in unemployment issue because they try to enter to labour market right after graduation from university. Sometimes, it is very hard and problematic because in the society there are only few job positions for young people. 51,1% of the surveyed university students said, that the government does not solve unemployment problem sufficiently. 19,4% of respondents were unable to assess this situation. On the other hand, 28,3% of surveyed university students consider government's solution of unemployment as adequate.

According to the respondents' opinion of insufficient Slovak government's involvement on solution of unemployment, described group of people are gradually looking for opportunities to express their dissatisfaction. Regarding to this, we consider elucidation of surveyed university students' participation on emerging discussion connected with described issue as a must.

**Table 2 The participation of surveyed university students in internet discussion about unemployment and field of study**

| <i>Respondents' field of study</i> | <i>The participation of surveyed university students in internet discussion about unemployment</i> |     |           |             |           |             |
|------------------------------------|--|-----|-----------|-------------|-----------|-------------|
|                                    | Without answer   |     | Yes       |             | No        |             |
|                                    | Count  | %   | Count     | %           | Count     | %           |
| <b>Without answer</b>              | 1  | 0,6 | 7         | 3,9         | 3         | 1,7         |
| <b>Humanistical</b>                | 2  | 1,1 | <b>55</b> | <b>30,6</b> | 28        | 15,6        |
| <b>Technical</b>                   | 2  | 1,1 | 36        | 20,0        | <b>46</b> | <b>25,6</b> |
| <b>Total</b>                       | 5  | 2,8 | <b>98</b> | <b>54,4</b> | 77        | 42,8        |

Source: processed by author

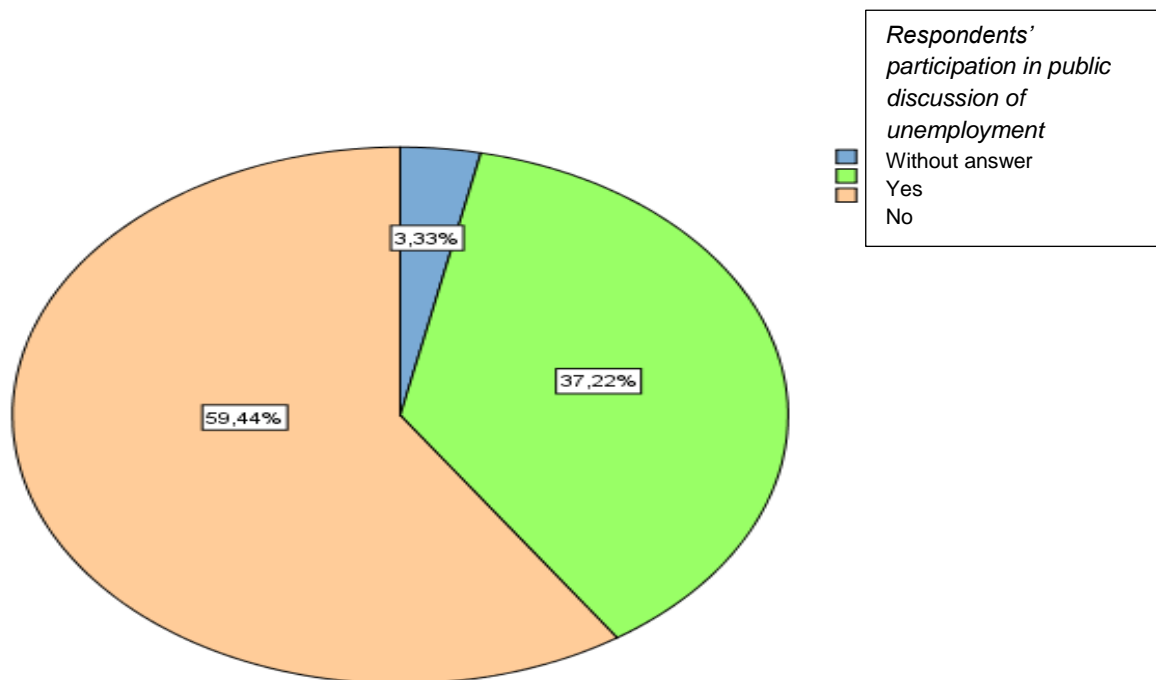
According to the data above, we can conclude that university students are looking for ways of problem's solution related with their first job after graduating from university. For this reason, students of in humanistic field of study participate in internet discussions oriented to the unemployment more than surveyed university students of technical study programs. In addition, approximately 31% of university students of humanistic study programs participate in internet discussion of unemployment. On the other hand, 20% of university students of technical field of study participate in internet discussion of unemployment.

Students, who are studying technical study programs will employ easier after their graduate from university. For this reason, approximately 26% of surveyed university students of technical study programs have not participated in internet discussion of unemployment. On the other hand, approximately 16% of university students of humanistic study programs have also not participated in internet discussion of unemployment.

The completion of surveyed university students picture of their participation can be explained by the fact, that more than half surveyed university students (approximately 54% of respondents) participated in internet discussion of unemployment. According to this, we point out the meaning of internet communication's expansion in contemporary society between young people, especially between university students.

Surveyed university students participated in discussion, which were focused especially on unemployment and this discussion was realised on the Internet. On the other hand, public discussion about upper described issue is less attractive than internet discussion for surveyed university students. Approximately 37% of respondents participated in public discussion about unemployment. We can observe analysed findings on the graph bellow (Figure 1).

**Figure 1 Respondents' participation in public discussion of unemployment**



Source: processed by author

## Discussion

University students reflect diverse issues in their neighbourhood, which is connected with everyday life in the society and also with its progressive development. Regarding to this, they are concentrated to the special problems in the society, such as unemployment of young people for example. Question of population's unemployment should be solved by government's activities. Moreover, unemployment is generally sensed as a one of the most societal problems, young people feel dissatisfaction of its solving by ministerial members.

Perception of unemployment as a societal problem needs to be solved. According to this, university students represent educated generation of people and they search efficient and effective resolution's means of societal problems. There is no doubt that unemployment of young people is one of the serious societal problem. Regarding to upper analysed issue, university students seek the area of their opinions' and attitudes' expression. Generally, described area is provided by the Internet. Internet is

one of the ways of spreading information in contemporary society. Moreover, it is also the way of connecting people all over the world because it provides virtual space for expression of individuals' attitudes, opinions and reactions connected generally with actual problems in the contemporary society. According to this, we note that surveyed university students participate in internet discussion of unemployment in this thesis. On the other hand, surveyed university students' participation in unemployment's public discussion was lower than university students' participation in unemployment's internet discussion. Moreover, we add the differences of participation in unemployment's internet discussion of surveyed university students between respondents' study program. Humanistic fields of study are occupied more than technical study programs by individuals. In addition, humanistic study programs are being occupied by amounts of students that are exceeding labour market's demand.

According to this, students of humanistic field of study actively participate on simply way of their attitudes' and opinions' expression in contemporary society. These expressions are connected with their fear of labour market's enforcement and they also address their thoughts and remarks to the competent members. On the other hand, we can conclude that expression of thoughts, ideas, attitudes and opinions in the internet discussion is realised in virtual space and real acts are just some ideas of young people's needs. However, searching for information on the internet is extended among young people.

## **Conclusion**

Within thesis "The reflexion of young people's unemployment by internet participation" we focused on approach of participation's ways existence among young people by expanding internet communication. Theoretical part of this thesis were focused on short approach of participation in contemporary society. Moreover, we were concentrated to the rising importance of information's disseminating by the Internet and its communicative channels.

We mapped surveyed university students' participation in internet discussion about unemployment in empirical part of this thesis. Respondents generally consider their future employability in the labour market as questionable, they are looking for possible solutions of analysed societal problem and they also point out societal problem by its Internet discussion's delineation. Within internet discussion of unemployment participate more university students of humanistic study programs as a students of technical study programs because there is significantly less job offers suitable for graduates from the humanist fields of study than for them from the technical ones.

In this thesis, we contacted 180 respondents studying at the University of Constantine the Philosopher and the Slovak Agricultural University in Nitra in Slovak republic. Data were collected through a quantitative method previously prepared questionnaire with subsequent data processing statistical software SPSS 20.



However, if we focus on the comprehensive examination of the internet participation's importance in the life of a young person, it is necessary to examine whether participation in internet discussion influences young people's participation in actual protests, demonstrations or other gatherings.

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